

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Action. By this Amendment, claims 1-20, 22 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 24-31 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 21 and 24-31 are now pending and therefore submitted for consideration.

Preliminary Matter

Claims 3-7 have been canceled in favor of newly added claims 24-28.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation that claim 21 has been allowed. Additionally, newly added claims 24-31, which depend from claim 21, also contain the allowable subject matter as set forth in claim 21.

Claim Rejection

Claims 1-11, 19, 20 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 13 of acknowledged prior art (APA) in view of Fudanuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,054,872, hereinafter "*Fudanuki*").

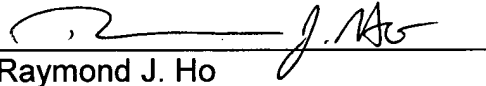
This rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation to claims 1-11, 19, 20 and 23.

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 21 and 23-31 contains allowable subject matter over the cited art. Applicant therefore requests this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,


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